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Next-level cold plunging

Read about the county's 12-month swimmers on page 4.

Combatting plastic pollution

Read Dysart's new environmental student column on page 5.

HH artist of the month

See more of Paul Upton's work displayed at Haliburton Home Hardware on page 10.

April Artist of the Month - Paul Upton. See page 10 for more. /Submitted

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Naturally Yours

A beaver dam along the Sheldon Lake trail. /Photos by Rick Whitteker

A beaver lodge in the same pond.

A spring ramble to Sheldon Lake

RICK WHITTEKER
Special to *County Life*

Before the trout lilies, trilliums, wild leeks and black flies, early spring hikes might lack colour but there is always lots to see. This proved to be the case on my spring hike on the Ganaraska Trail to Sheldon Lake in the Queen Elizabeth 11 Wildlands Provincial Park.

The trailhead is located just off Deep Bay Road at Devils Lake Road, south of Minden. I would rank 3.5 km hike to Sheldon Lake as a medium difficult hike, with many short steep sections and several creek and beaver dam crossings.

For those of certain vintage or with ambulatory challenges, the turn around point may be about 1.4 kilometers in when hikers need to navigate a rock ledge. Even with many good foot and hand holds, this section can still be challenging especially going down. A sturdy white birch grows right at the ledge converting most people tree huggers if they weren't already before navigating this section of the trail.

Winding through a mature, mixed forest, there is surprising amount of green along the trail including surviving ferns, mosses, coniferous saplings and carpets of the groundcover plant, wintergreen. Anywhere from burgundy to green but lacking the glossiness of the summer, the leaves still pack a flavourful punch, even after months under the snow.

At 1.5 km, a beautiful rocky knoll overlooks two small lakes with a significant beaver dam in between. If you do not have hiking poles, a stack of sturdy branches help with balance on this tricky, wet walk walkway of sticks, logs, mud and rocks. A male red-winged blackbird cheered me on as I planned every step trying to keep my feet dry.

There is nothing subtle about the evidence of beaver on this hike. Their dams are impressive water stopping structures and their lodges are impenetrable mounts of sticks and mud that stand out in the shallow water bodies near the trail. Their angled or pointed chews are regularly observed. Their trails between water bodies are wide as their bellies. Only their scat is subtle and seldom seen as they do their business in water.

Recognizing the challenges of living near beavers, I cannot help but to be impressed with the tenacity of their dam building. I would love to just sit and watch a clan of beavers build a dam, wishing I had those skills during my boyhood efforts of unsuccessfully trying to stop rivulets of rainwater with mud and sticks.

Beavers are herbivores, preferring to dine on deciduous trees. Like a cob of corn, we enjoy the corn but not the cob. Likewise, beavers feed on the living cells of the cambium layer located just under the bark and ignore none living wood. Beavers drop larger trees to get at the upper branches for food or building materials.

Beavers build dams to control the water level. For the winter, water levels must be kept high enough so they can swim under the ice to access food cached along the shore. The wetlands they produce are rich in biodiversity. Awkward on land, beavers try to avoid land travel as they are vulnerable to predation. Although their tail slap on water is an impressive warning device, this does little to deter the powerful jaws of a marauding wolf or coyote.

Their teeth are formidable but are designed to chew and not defend. Continuously growing, their teeth naturally wear down into a chisel-like formation as the softer inner bony tissue wears down faster than outer enamel. This allows beavers to drop trees in an amazingly short amount of time.

Sheldon Lake is long and narrow; its shoreline is dominated by white pine. There are great, elevated views of this backcountry lake and several overnight camping sites. However, it is time to return to the trailhead. On my return journey, the light and temperature has changed. A black-capped chickadee sings its mating/territorial call that sounds like a high pitch "Hey Sweetie!" Two blanding's turtles bask on a log taking advantage of the sun's warmth.

I saw two garter snakes on my return hike, one stuck its out its head and wiggled out of a hole in a rock no bigger than a loonie. There must be an underground cavity to turn around or another entrance as, although I am not a herpetologist, but I don't think snakes can back up into their nighttime dens!

There is great rugged beauty to this hike. At times challenging but very rewarding, the views from lichen crusted rocky knolls is worth the effort in this wild part of Haliburton County.

County Life

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Naturally Yours

Trail blazes

The Ganaraska Trail uses tree blazes of either blue paint or blue plastic markers. A single blaze means you are on the trail. When there are two blazes on a tree, if the top blaze is left of the bottom blaze, the trial will veer to the left, if the top blaze is to the right of the bottom blaze, the trail will soon turn to the right. If the blazes make a "T", there is a trail intersection ahead. If you lose the trail, always return to the last blaze you saw to get reoriented. Do not wander around looking for the trail as it is easy to become disoriented and possibly lost.

Blue rectangles mark the trail.

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From left, Joleen Thomas, Kelly Winder, Cheryl Bathe, and Katie Cox take an icy plunge at Horseshoe Lake. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

County's 12 month swimmers take the plunge

THOMAS SMITH

County Life Staff

Joleen Thomas and Amanda Austin started swimming together 16 years ago.

"I had a couple of babies, and I was looking for something to do in the summertime that was easy in a postpartum body. I saw this woman had a Waterloo triathlon coat on and asked her at the Early Years Centre if she would swim with me," says Thomas. "That was 16 years ago."

"We started swimming all year during [the COVID-19 pandemic] as a way to stay connected. We would swim every morning in the summertime and we would swim into the fall," says Thomas. "One of our girlfriends was moving to the Netherlands. We wanted a way to stay connected with her and a way to stay connected during the pandemic."

Their friend, Anje Hilkers, continues to swim throughout the winter in the Netherlands.

"So our summer swimming group changed to the 12 Months Swim Group."

"Throughout the year, I'd say we have a good core of about 12," says Thomas. "Some days there's 2 that come, some days there's 20."

"It was before Wim Hof. It was before the whole cold plunge movement," says Thomas. "This is such a great thing for us all to do together during the pandemic and stay connected during the lockdowns."

"Swimming outside in the cold gave us a chance to stay together and kept the camaraderie. It was easier to swim in the cold than go for a walk with six people," says Thomas. "And we liked the challenge. Everyone swims in the cold for a different reason."

"My resistance to the cold is so much greater," says Thomas. "Knowing you can be cold and you're gonna warm up later. It's a pretty powerful thing. Swimming for me, brain fog, that's a huge thing. Once I go in, there's so much clarity afterwards, and you're full of energy."

"If I'm feeling run down, or I'm about to get sick, I notice my capacity for the cold is diminished quite a bit. It's not enjoyable. Learning to not push through that and listen is really helpful."

"Everyone that does this is smiling when they start and smiling when they leave."

The age range of swimmers range from 30s to 70 plus, says Thomas.

"When I first started it, I felt really responsible for everybody," says Thomas. "I took a cold water immersion course so that I felt safe about choosing a location and appreciating what was happening physiologically when we are going in the water and some of the risks that could happen and how to mitigate those."

"Most people think it is admirable," says Thomas. "A lot of people think it's bananas, absolutely bonkers. I think secretly, people are very curious and they really want to and it's been so fascinating watching our group grow."

The 12 Months Swimmers group on Facebook has been quickly growing.

"There's been more interest this year," says Thomas. "Probably because the weather has been a little bit more favourable, these warmer days," says Thomas. "It doesn't matter, the water is still temperature when it had the ice on it."

"We've had the police called on us. We were swimming in the river in Minden," says Thomas.

Although there is a current, Thomas is confident in the safety precautions and equipment used to ensure the swimmer's safety."

"Research suggests that 11 minutes is the perfect number per week," says Thomas. "In the first couple of years, you get this champagne skin afterwards which is like this buzz as soon as you get out of the water and your blood goes to your extremities again."

"We're not in there long enough to get hypothermia," assures Thomas. "You'd have to be in there a long time."

Besides dangerous conditions such as lightning storms, the 12 Months Swimmers group will swim rain or shine.

"We always dream of that perfect big, chunky, snowflake day. Other than lightning, there's no reason not to go."

Kelly Winder started swimming with the group on June 31, 2022.

"I saw some people that were in the group that were on my friends list, I would see them post on Facebook that they did a plunge or even doing a summer swim," says Winder, "I just love swimming."

"I am really adapted to it. I stay in 10 plus minutes at a time. It's not a competition, but I just think I am still learning more about it too," says Winder. "Trying to figure out what's safe. Obviously, don't put yourself into hypothermia."

While the group swims in lakes throughout Haliburton County, the swimming group regularly meets at Horseshoe Lake for their winter plunges.

"It is all for fun and exercise," says Winder. "This past December, we had 21 people out, which is our record number."

Recently, the group organized a moonlight swim, under the full moon.

"I just love it cause it's so relaxing," says Winder. "It's so good for stress. It's helped immensely. With the personal stuff I am going through, it's helped immensely. That and church."

"It's becoming so popular," explains Winder." "There is a Kingston group that has set a record for most people laughing in the water for three minutes. They do this funny dress up stuff. Athletes are doing it all the time. It's good for recovery after sports."

Winder describes it as a wonderful, natural way to get a headrush.

"Come join us," says Thomas. "Obviously, make sure it's okay with your doctor. Otherwise, take it slow, wear footwear."

" It doesn't matter if you›re doing summersaults out there or swimming lengths, or standing knee deep, you're still taking the plunge," says Thomas.

"No judgement till you try it."

The 12 Months Swimmers are putting on a Jump in the Lake event on May 4 at 2 p.m. Donations for the event are accepted here: www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/central-food-network/p2p/jump24.

Seeds of change: my quest to combat plastic pollution

I am one of the luckiest international students getting to study Waste Resource Management at Fleming College. I was interested in sustainability even before coming to Canada. While in India earning my degree in Biotechnology, I grasped how damaging plastic pollution is to the environment and human health. I took a course which provided me with techniques and the necessary skills to take on plastic pollution.

DIYA SINGLA
Special to County Life

Plastics made from conventional methods are adverse to the environment and human health since they are made up of non-renewable raw materials and take up to 1,000 years to disintegrate. Conversely, the use of renewable raw materials in making bioplastics has immense potential in the management and control of plastic pollutants, as they break down in water in just six months. Inspired by the potential of bioplastics to mitigate environmental harm, I embarked on a journey to develop innovative plant-based plastics.

My journey is characterised by research, hands-on experimentation, and unwavering determination. Starting from the analysis of the composition of plastics, to the sourcing of plant-based materials, every step brought me closer to my goal: that bioplastics could help make the world a better place by being environmentally sensitive, and economically viable.

I built my prototypes using 35 ingredients, among them rose gel, cornstarch, aloe vera, and glycerine, which constitutes 40 per cent of the composition. Within the controlled setup of the lab, each ingredient was selected based on its properties and how it would be able to substitute for the various attributes conventional plastics have. Then I thought about going a step further by making our bioplastic include plant seeds, so any bioplastic that ends up in nature could biodegrade.

A major turning point in my path was reached in 2023 when I successfully created a meadow made of fully biodegradable plastics with integrated seedlings. I made the decision to move it to a larger platform in March 2024. I applied to the Pitch N Win Competition in Peterborough, Ontario, where over 105 other teams presented their original startup ideas. After a stringent selection process that included pitch request forms, presentations, and a semi-final round, my startup made it to the top 10 finalists of the competition. I was proud to have been selected as one of the top 10 innovators and stood in front of a panel of judges on March 22, 2024, for the final round. Being a top finalist of an event is a testimony to the strong combination of innovation and persistence.

Ultimately, my goal isn't just to make bioplastics, but to make a difference and inspire others to move towards making the future greener on earth for all. As a student majoring in Waste Resource Management at Fleming College, I really look forward to being part of a close-knit community where everyone is fully interested in the safeguarding of the environment and joining efforts in fighting the hazards of plastic pollution, for a sustainable and healthier planet.

Diya Singla is a student at Fleming College's Waste Resource Management – Environmental program and is doing a co-op placement as a Recycling Educator at the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Tacit Din

Strange how silent spring in force
Cell by cell, what's slept for weeks
Trees begin to sing, of course
Mating messages from beaks
Loud while April's heartbeat tweaks

Minus sound, which mimics lives
Night and day with water grow
Leaf tips towards the sun like knives
Piercing north through soil and snow
Into air where blackbirds go

Time for drowsy poet blood
To directions senses reach
Like the green unfolded bud
Burgeoning in muted speech
Noise and quiet, some of each

By Deborah J Reed

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Easter, gone but not forgotten, don't tcha know

Maybelle's **Fireside stories**

DEAR READER,
Why, if Easter didn't come and go in a flash, leaving in its wake a bang and a hop and a flutter, plus a big warm fuzzy feeling of joy, friendship, and love, don'tcha know. Yes, love. You don't hear that word much these days, especially in the news where it's all dark and gloomy and well, sad. But, ol' Maybelle is here to tell you, thanks to the much alive and well kid living inside me and my dear friends, Twindle Mumbly, Vilma Yucch, Beanpole Starkman, Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom (McB for short, and he is anything BUT), and Sybil Beaucannon Hughes, Easter Sunday was one big shared lovefest, don'tcha know.

You see, it all started when Twiddle arrived carrying a multi-coloured woven Easter basket that was full of faux fur trimmed bunny ears attached to plastic headbands for all of us to wear. Pink for ol' Maybelle, Vilma, and Sybil, and baby blue for Beanpole and Officer McB. The wonderful thing about my friends is, no one hesitated to put them on, especially when we saw ol' Twindle enter wearing baby blue ears on top of his aging bald head.

Before you knew it, we were all decked out in bunny-ear silliness ready for an evening of fun and feast as a myriad of taste-tingling aromas wafted into the living room from my cottage kitchen – honey baked ham, cooked candied carrots, potatoes and freshly baked bread and carrot cake.

That's when Vilma whipped out the LED rubber bunnies, one for each of us, and showed us what they could do.

"Just take your little bunny and tap its bottom on the table, like this!" she said, tapping a pink rubber bunny on my coffee table, making it flash violently like a creature from outer space.

"Wow!" "Fantastic!" "I love it!" plus yikes and laughter filled the air.

Arms extended, hands grabbed, and in a nano second, we were all holding our own LED bunny and tapping its bottom on the closest hard surface to us the coffee table, floor, Beanpole's head, and making it pulsate in neon through translucent rubber skin of pink, yellow, lime, and blue.

Once they started to flash they continued for a good five seconds or so before stopping. "Let's see whose bunny can flash the longest," Officer McB said. Our eyes scanned each other's with childlike joy seeking confirmation. Immediately unanimous, we raised our bunnies just inches above a hard surface and on the count of three … tap, tap,tap, flash, flash, flash. Wild, vibrant colours. Vilma flicked off the light switch and our bunnies went psychedelic-like, don'tcha know.

What it was about this thing that we were doing that made us all laugh and shout and root so hard for our own rubber toy, is beyond the intellect, beyond how ol' Maybelle and my friends are supposed to behave at our age. It is instead, connecting to a realm of unbridled, unrestricted childlike joy, and enjoying the great good fortune of sharing it with friends.

Oh, the food that I told you about earlier was embraced and savoured. Why, if we didn't all sit at ol' Maybelle's dining table wearing our beloved pastel bunny ears, while tap-flashing our LED bunnies, and, in addition, savouring with deep gratitude, the beautiful food before us.

Yes, something magical happened that night. Time disappeared. Age disappeared. Worldly concerns disappeared. And in their place, a memory was made that continues to this day, that lights up ol' Maybelle, and I don't even have to tap my bottom on a hard surface to shine, shine, shine, shine, shine, don'tcha know.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories is now available at www.amazon.com.

Top 10 reasons why your boat sunk

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

NOW THAT boating season is upon us, I think we might do well to expound upon the little aspects of boating know-how. Chief among those is understanding why your boat just sunk. For, if you understand why your boat sunk, you might be able to avoid it next time. With that in mind, here are the top 10 reasons why your boat sunk.

1. One well-aimed torpedo.
2. No one was paying attention to the icebergs.
3. Number of rock bass kept exceeds maximum weight capacity of boat.
4. Glass bottom boat, tap-dancing crew.
5. Boat on water. Plug on shore.
6. Your crew consists of people who bail in reverse.
7. You are boating in an area where they train new water bomber pilots...
8. Played chicken with an aircraft carrier.
9. Very heavy anchor. Very short rope. Very deep water.
10. Shouldn't have had seconds at shore lunch.

Stirring

Sunlight, splintering, the skin of ice, thinning every day,
as slivers of River feel Air again, polished to a silver sheen,
pieces of River, still sealed, along its bank, stalks of cattails, encased in ice, brittle as straw,
awaiting the thaw,
tufts of fluff clinging to their shredded heads, as a pair of blackbirds lands, perching on top of two of the cattails,
a slash of crimson, adorning their wings, this splash of colour,
enlivening the monochrome of the world before it bursts into spring,
as I stand on the River's edge, feeling Sun, graze my cheeks, piercing layers of coat and sweater and flesh,
seeping into the secret space inside me, that craves warmth and light, as spring squirms all around me,
a chorus of birds trilling in the branches of the willows, the caws of crows, swallowing their song,
as the pair of blackbirds, wearing their sashes of red, remain silent and still,
perched on the pair of cattail heads, peering out across the River, resting their wings,
listening to the cacophony of other birds, swirling through Air, as I wonder what they hear,
whether it sounds different to their ears, than what trickles into mine, these stirrings of spring,
as I glance down at the parched patch of grass, its blades, craving Rain, after being sealed beneath Snow for so long,
the willows' tresses, dangling limp as string, as my eyes search for the source of the sound,
trailing along the trunk of the tree, spotting blurs of grey birds, chirping in the branches,
closing my eyes, for a moment, to just listen and feel the warmth of noonday Sun, stroking my face,
this River of birdsong, flowing through Air, piercing layers of ice and Snow,
reaching the roots of trees, slithering below, seeds, sleeping, waiting for the thaw.
I flutter my eyes back open, the camera of their lens,
capturing the moment the pair of blackbirds flap their red-stained wings through Air,
one, following another, flitting up into a twisted tree, clusters of puckered berries, dangling from its branches,
the two blackbirds, landing on separate limbs, their crimson sashes, flashing through the branches,
as crows squawk above them, flying over the bare crown of the tree.
I turn to clomp back along the riverbank, leaving the pair of blackbirds be,
to feast on the berries, as they enjoy each other's quiet company,
peering out, through the branches, at the slivers of River, feasting on Air and light,
tendrils of spring, stirring in the darkness beneath the earth,
dreaming of their own Awakening.

Sylvie Kalenda

Highland Storm U18 Reps become gold medal champions

The U18 Rep Tom Prentice and Sons team attended the 2024 OMHA Championships in Halton Hills on March 30 and 31. The road to Red Hats was set to be a tough one as they were competing against teams from all across Ontario.

Storm played their first game on Friday against the Wallaceburg Lakers, and they found themselves down 3-1 late in the second period. Storm made a remarkable comeback and went on to score five unanswered goals leading to a 6-3 win. The win showcased the teams depth as everyone contributed throughout the game. Brechin Johnston, Alex Hendry, Cooper Coles, Ethan Megrah Poppe and Nathan Morrison all found the back of the net.

On Saturday, they faced off against the Belle River Jr. Canadians. Down by a goal heading into the second, Storm began capitalizing on the power play and started the third period with a 3-2 lead. With just under seven minutes left in the third, Aiden Perrott scored his second of the game increasing the lead to 4-2. Cooper Coles then added another goal which completed his hat trick, followed with a late goal by Alex Hendry giving Storm a 6-2 victory and securing their spot in the semi final game on Sunday.

Later that day, Storm played their final round-robin game against Norwood Hornets and suffered their first loss of the weekend losing 4-1.

The semi-final game was set with Storm taking on Port Colborne, a very respected team who had placed first in their group. Port Colborne took an early one goal lead, but Storm responded quickly as Beckham Reynolds tied the game. Storm showcased their resilience as the game went back and fourth. Brechin Johnston displayed an incredible performance scoring four goals. The game came down to the final seconds, but Storm was able to hang on and win 5-4 sending, them to the championship game.

In the finals, Storm would again meet up with Norwood. It was an evenly matched, fast paced game where Storm displayed great defence, offence and goaltending. Aiden Perrott opened the scoring in the first period, and Brechin Johnston followed up with a short handed goal giving Storm a two-goal lead heading into the second period. Norwood capitalized on the power play mid way through the second cutting the lead to one. However, Storm continued to hold onto the lead by working as a team on defence and getting help from their goaltender Ethan Dobson. With five minutes and 15 seconds left in the third period, Beckham Reynolds scored giving Storm a two goal lead. Norwood would respond with a goal of their own resulting in a tense final minute, but Storm would not back down and in the end were victorious with the final score being 3-2.

Building team chemistry was one of the main goals for us this season. That's generally something all championship teams have in common. Knowing we can trust each other really made a difference, especially in the big games. It was a great season all around. Congrats on being OMHA Champions!

Submitted by Amber-Lee Johnston

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Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

April 11 - HHHS Drop In 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Open 2 to 6 p.m.
April 12 - Senior's 55+ lunch noon - Open 2 to 9 p.m. Wings/Jam 5 to 8 p.m.
April 13 - Open 2 to 6 p.m. - House League Darts Open 2 to 6 p.m. - Meat Draw 3 p.m.
April 14 – L.A. Breakfast 9 to 11 a.m. - Closed after breakfast
April 15 - 16 - Closed
April 17 - Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.
If you are planning an event our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

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kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY $699,000

Property is zoned C4 and currently has a two bedroom and three bedroom apartment, which will be vacant on closing, 1900 sq ft of retail space,14 storage units and a garage. Loads of parking. Call for more information.

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lisa@lisamercer.ca

1010 TURNTABLE DRIVE, MINDEN $110,000

- .41 acres
- Drilled well installed in 2023
- Partially cleared lot, Driveway permit and gravel driveway completed.
- Wooden fence along full back and one side.
- 10 minutes to the town of Minden, 5 minutes to Kinmount.
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- Beautiful quiet lake, west of Minden
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- Gentle lot well treed, gorgeous sunsets
- Lightly developed lake with balance of shoreline crown
- 1000's of acres of crown to the west
- Rough 4x4 road to lot

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705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

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Calling all outdoor enthusiasts! This very private 17-acre property, with rolling hills and mature trees, is surrounded by nature with plenty of wildlife. Featuring a small cozy off-grid cabin with solar framework, it is the perfect getaway or investment opportunity! Located on a seasonal private road less than 15 minutes to local beaches and all the local amenities in Haliburton Village. Don't miss this opportunity to get in touch with all that mother nature has to offer!

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Broker 705-754-5280
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Realtor® 705-457-0652
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DARK LAKE $499,900

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- Main floor master & laundry
- Walk-out to back deck for dining
- Level lot; gently elevated at lake
- Sandy entry & deeper off dock
- Fire-pit area & shed for storage
- Boat both Grace & Dark Lakes
- Septic/sand-pt well; yr-rnd mun rd

Rick Forget
Broker
705-457-0580
haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

New county-wide burning by-law takes effect

A new Open Air Burning Bylaw came into effect across the municipalities of Haliburton County on Monday, April 1. Jointly created by the County's four Chief Fire Officials and adopted by each of its lower-tier municipal councils, the new by-law establishes consistent burning regulations throughout the County and introduces some new provisions.

A major change introduced in the new by-law is the elimination of daytime burning during the fire season, which runs from April 1 to October 31 each year. Previously, daytime burn permits were available in order to set open air fires during this time period.

The 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive ever recorded in Canada, and the decision to eliminate daytime burning during the fire season was made with heightened public safety in mind. Contractors who may find it necessary to carry out daytime burning during this time period are asked to contact their local fire department in order to make arrangements.

Open air fires for cooking or warmth may be set between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and between the dates of April 1 and October 31, so long as they are small, confined and supervised at all times. According to the provisions of the by-law, such fires must be smaller than .6 metres in diameter; must be confined within a fire pit or appliance; must be completely extinguished when use is complete; and must comply with all other conditions of the by-law.

Please note that fires for cooking or warmth are not permitted during a fire ban. The Open Air Burning By-Law in its entirety can be viewed here.

For more information, please contact your local fire chief.

Submitted

Haliburton Home Hardware Building Centre
April Artist of the Month - Paul Upton

Paul is a self-employed, lifelong resident of Haliburton County. Working in the firewood business for many years, he found inspiration within the wood grains and unlocked a hidden talent. Paul began repurposing and producing live edge hardwood lumber in the spring of 2023.

During this time, his passion began to grow - and he ventured into a new chapter of woodworking. With an artist's eye and a craftsman's hands, Paul sees the potential in his raw materials. Paul also uses epoxy resin, seamlessly blending it with wood to create stunning and durable pieces of functional art.

In this month's display, Paul has included a few of his favourite creations. You can see more of Paul's creations on his Facebook page; Paul's Wood N' Decor & More. Paul's display will be showcased at Haliburton Home Hardware for the month of April. Be sure to stop by! All items in the display are available for purchase.

BeautiTone Colour featured: Emerald Lake
Submitted by Haliburton Home Hardware Building Centre

The Lowdown at the Hook

Benton Brown and the Lodown (Nick Russell and Justin McHugh) put on a stunning performance for Hook, Line & Sinker customers on Friday, March 29. Follow @bentonbrownlodown on Instagram for band updates and gigs, and follow @thehookhaliburton for future restaurant events. /TIM YANO Special to *County Life*

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A male Mallard goes for a swim. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

Details of the head of a Trumpeter Swan. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

Calling all HHSS students in Grades 9 - 11

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Do you have a part-time job and
a current grade average above 70%?

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APPLY HERE

Deadline is April 30th, 2024 so apply today!

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Creative Collaborations
When: Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church. 617 Mountain Street
Share your skills. Learn new skills. Bring your own project or work on the featured project. Beginners Welcome. Contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for details.

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays, at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cribbage and Euchre
When: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Join us Tuesdays for cribbage and Euchre at St. George's Anglican Church. Please contact lynnhiggsthompson@haliburtonanglican.ca for more information.

Scottish Country Dancing
When: Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St.
Join us for a multigenerational, lively, rockin' good time! You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners are always welcome, no partner required. Please bring soft soled indoor shoes. Please RSVP to haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com by Tuesday evening. $5 per person, per evening.

Community Yard Sale Registration
When: now until spots are filled
Where: 20 George Street, Haliburton
Spaces are now available to rent for the community yard sale taking place on Saturday July 13, Hosted by North Entrance Masonic Lodge. Rent a space, bring your table, and sell your stuff! Rentals begin at $15. Book early - spots are limited. For more info or to book your spot contact Rob Parish at 705-935-1921 or robparish707@yahoo.ca

CARP Fraud Seminar
When: April 17, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George Street
Join us for a fraud seminar, hosted by CARP Chapter 54, featuring OPP Officer Hilary Newman. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about common scams, how to recognize them and steps to take if you've fallen victim to fraud. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

Stanhope and Community Fly-In to Spring
When: May 4, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: 1168 Stanhope Airport Rd, Algonquin Highlands
Bring the entire family to see antique and classic aircraft, enjoy a variety of food and drinks, and see model aeroplanes, firetrucks and MNR displays. Aeroplane and helicopter rides available. For more information contact Steve Dewey at sdewey@algonquinhighlands.ca

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210 FIREWOOD FOR SALE

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We are hiring for the areas of Dorset, Maple Lake, Ingoldsby and Minden.

If you are interested please send a resume to watsongeneralcontracting@sympatico.ca
or drop off at the Maple Lake or Scotchline sites
or contact Michelle Watson at (705) 854-1382 or (705) 754-9904

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Local children's summer camp is accepting applications for cleaning and maintenance positions. Full and seasonal opportunities available. Wide variety of duties including camp start-up and close down. Salaries based on experience. Submit resume to, **rob@campnbb.com** or leave a message at **705-754-2374** for more information.

Hyland Ice Supply NOW Accepting Applications for 2024 Summer Season for Drivers Helpers, **(students)** Production Staff and Drivers (D, DZ, G) Please contact us via e-mail: **info@hylandice.com** or by telephone: **705-448-2973** Attention Carol

***Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks* Cleaning Services**
2 Summer Staff - $20.00/hr

We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets. Up to 40 hour work week Summer (5 days, Scheduled Weekends). Daily and Evening shifts available.
(June-Sept) NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at ***matt@onondagacamp.com***. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)
A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.

Camp Timberlane is a co-ed residential summer camp for campers aged 6 – 16. For more information about the camp, visit us at **www.Camptimberlane.ca**

Grounds Keeping/Maintenance - Full Time, Temporary, Contract
Two positions available are available for Maintenance and Grounds Keeping.
Responsibilities include: keeping the grounds clean and clear of garbage and waste, grass cutting and leaf blowing, landscape maintenance, empty garbage receptacle, operation of front loader, painting, delivering wood for firepits. Sundry duties as assigned. Manual labour or construction experience will be an asset

Housekeeping/Laundry - Full Time, Temporary, Contract
Two positions available for Housekeeping and Laundry.
Responsibilities include: cleaning of all buildings, accommodations, washrooms, shower facilities and common areas throughout the camp, including the turnover of living space throughout camp and overall upkeep of camp facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

Expected Start date: April 1, 2024
Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary Range: Both Housekeeping/Laundry and Maintenance/Grounds keeping: $17.50 - $19.50 per hour based on experience. **Submit resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca**

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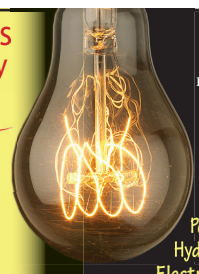

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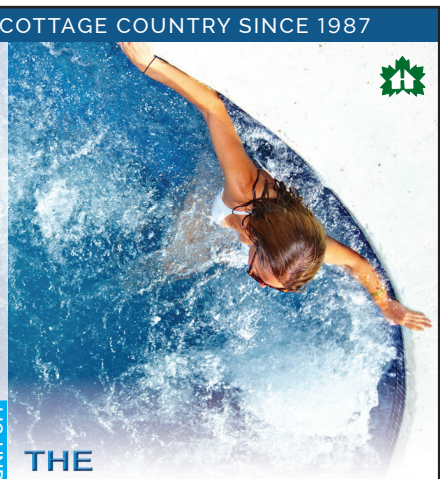

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

KELSEY CROWE AN IDOL
Young Minden singer wows the judges at Haliburton Idol contest

GETTING UP TO SPEED
Bell expands high-speed Internet service to three new areas in county

TEENS' TAKE ON LOVE
High school drama students get creative about love for Wednesday's début

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HALIBURTON COUNTY
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TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

Vol. 125 No. 14 $1.25 INCL. GST

Highlander of the Year

Theatre founder takes centre stage

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The new Highlander of the Year sometimes sits in one of the comfortably padded seats at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, looks down at the stage and thinks, "I helped to create this."

Caryl Miller remembers when audiences had to sit on wooden stacking chairs to watch a play on the high school's "gymnatorium" raised stage, when the janitor would be paid with a bottle of spirits to set the eight stage lights in the right direction.

Eleven years ago, when the high school got funding to build a brand new gym and science wing, she was one of the people in the community who jumped on the chance to transform the old girls' gym into a proper theatre.

There was a hitch, of course. The community would have to raise close to $300,000 and it would have to do it before the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation launched its capital campaign a few months later.

On Saturday night at the Delta Pinestone Resort, the people gath-

See **County** *page 14*

GREG HOEKSTRA/Echo

Tuning in to Earth Hour

A darkened Canoe FM studio served as headquarters for Earth Hour 2008 in Haliburton County, with radio host Joan Cameron and her husband, Don, manning the phone lines and sharing listeners' stories over the airwaves. The Camerons say more than 200 local residents called and emailed the station in the days leading up to Earth Hour to pledge their commitment to flick off their lights for an hour in unison with other communities across the globe. For full story see page 10; draw prize winners will be in Thursday's *Weekender*.

Road projects fail to get provincial funds

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The province's decision not to contribute to the rehabilitation of County Road 21 came as a big blow to Warden Eleanor Harrison.

It might also throw county property owners for a loop when they get their next tax bill.

"It has not been my best day," Harrison said on Friday afternoon, just hours after she got the news that the province wouldn't spend $1.8 million to help fix the 3.4 km stretch of road between Soyers Lake Road and Peninsula Drive.

What made the announcement worse, however, was the accompanying news that Algonquin Highlands wasn't receiving $1.1 million to repair the Buckslides bridge. "I just can't believe it," she says. "The bridge is falling down" and has been reduced to one lane.

Highlands East was also frozen out of the province's $450-million Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative. It had applied for $450,000 to make the intersection at Houston Road and McGillivray Road safer.

Reeve Dave Burton was disappointed with the news but also philosophical. "I think we'll go ahead" with the project without the provincial government's help, he said, noting that the

See **Haliburton** *page 12*

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Kennisis Lake Open House

Saturday, April 13th

2330 Wilkinson Road

12:00-2:00

1154 Wilkinson Road

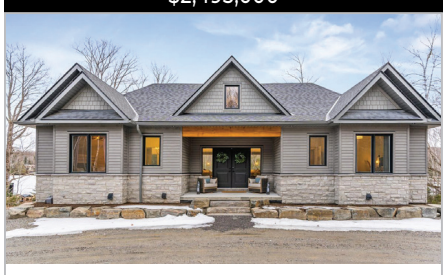
12:00-2:00

1107 Pine Point Road

1:00-3:00

BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

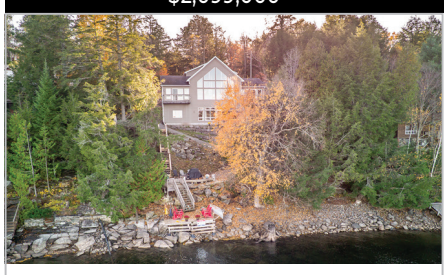
HALIBURTON LAKE
$2,495,000



5 X BED · TURN KEY · SAND BEACH · SOUTHWEST EXPOSURE

MLS# 40548273

KENNISIS LAKE
$2,099,000



5 X BED · 4 X BATH · 107 FT. FRONTAGE · 3437 SQ. FT

MLS# 40544097

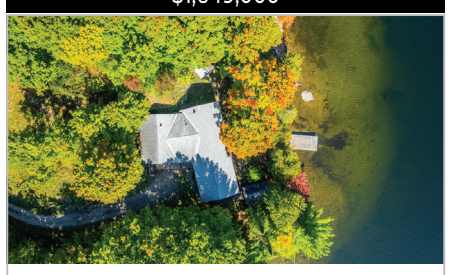
KENNISIS LAKE
$1,675,000

OPEN HOUSE

4 X BED · 3 X BATH · DEN · MUNICIPAL ROAD

MLS# 40544097

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE
$1,649,000



2.58 ACRES · BOATHOUSE · 3 X BED · 3 X BATH

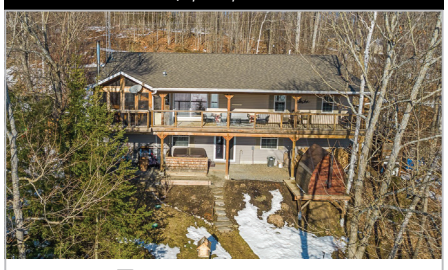
MLS# 40485914

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,245,500

3 X BED · 2 X BATH · GREAT LOCATION

MLS# 40561873

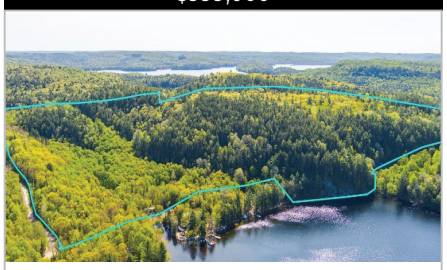
WENONA LAKE
$1,225,000



3 X BED · 3 X BATH · WESTERN EXPOSURE · SAUNA

MLS# 40547278

HALIBURTON LAKE
$999,000



169 ACRES · 3 X BED · 2 X BATH · SOUTHWEST EXPOSURE

MLS# 40424313

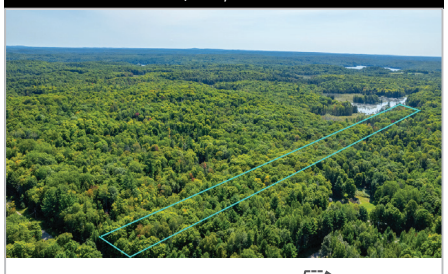
KENNISIS LAKE
$830,000

OPEN HOUSE

3 X BED · 1 X BATH · SOUTHERN EXPOSURE · BOATHOUSE

MLS# 40552668

BETHEL ROAD
$195,000



330 FT. FRONTAGE · MUNICIPAL ROAD · 24.65 ACRES

MLS# 40476956

GRACE RIVER ROAD
$185,000

LAKEFRONT · 2.61 ACRES

MLS# 40549856

GRACE RIVER ROAD
$179,000

RIVERFRONT · 1.23 ACRES

MLS# 40549838

LAKEVIEW ST.
$159,900

GREAT LOCATION · MUNICIPAL ROAD · 1.47 ACRES

MLS# 40538935

GULL LAKE
$1,290,000

MLS# 40546940

HWY 118
$479,000

MLS# 40543181

MOUNTAIN STREET
$628,000

MLS# 40529487

HALIBURTON LAKE
$875,000

MLS# 40534333

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